

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-51. Cancelled

52. (Currently amended) An interactive directory system for permitting a user to access and retrieve information from a network of computers, comprising:

a key phrase field for accepting a search term;

a data table that is selectively definable by a user comprising:

at least two columns, each of said columns having a column heading, at least one of the column headings being selected by the user from a plurality of available column headings;
and

at least one row ~~having a row heading~~ and a plurality of cells, said plurality of cells corresponding to said at least two columns, each of said plurality of cells for storing a unique identifier related to its corresponding column heading and row heading and said search term; and

a search unit for searching for unique identifiers from the network of computers related to the search term, ~~said at least one row heading~~, and one of said at least two column headings, said search unit storing said unique identifiers in the applicable cell;

whereby each said cell can be activated by the user to perform at least one action related to said stored unique identifiers.

53. (Currently amended) The interactive directory system of claim 52, wherein said ~~activation~~ action is selected from the group comprising obtaining additional information, placing a telephone call, sending a facsimile, and sending a message over the network of computers.

54. (Previously presented) The directory system of claim 52, wherein said network of computers includes the Internet.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently amended) The directory system of claim 52, wherein said at least one row has a row heading is selected by the user from one of a plurality of available row headings.

57. (Previously presented) The directory system of claim 53, wherein said message is an email.

58. (Previously presented) The directory system of claim 52, wherein said stored unique identifiers originate from at least two sources.

59. (Previously presented) The directory system of claim 52, wherein said at least one action is implemented with a single selection of the cell.

60. (Previously presented) The directory system of claim 52, wherein said system is accessed by selecting an icon on a computer screen.

61. (Previously presented) The directory system of claim 60, wherein said plurality of cells are automatically filled in as a user searches the Internet.

62. (Currently amended) The directory system of claim 52, wherein said unique identifier is a phone number, and said ~~activation~~ action comprises placing a telephone call.

63. (Currently amended) The directory system of claim 52 wherein said unique identifier is a facsimile number, and said ~~activation~~ action comprises sending a facsimile to said facsimile number.

64. (Currently amended) The directory system of claim 52, wherein said unique identifier is an e-mail address, and said ~~activation~~ action comprises sending an e-mail to said e-mail address.

65. (Previously presented) The directory system of claim 52, further comprising a cursor and an activity menu having a plurality of activity buttons; whereby each of said activity buttons defines an action related to said unique identifiers within a cell.

66. (Previously presented) The directory system of claim 64, wherein said cursor is activateable to highlight one of said plurality of cells and at least one of said plurality of activity buttons change to reflect said stored unique identifier in said highlighted cell.

67. (Currently amended) The directory system of claim 52, wherein ~~said row heading and said column headings~~ rows and columns are interchangeable.

68. (Previously presented) The directory system of claim 52, further comprising at least one database, whereby said system accesses and retrieves information within said at least one database.

69. (Currently amended) A method for permitting a user to access and retrieve information from a network of computers, comprising:

defining a key phrase field for accepting a search term;

defining a data table that is selectively definable by a user comprising:

at least two columns, each of said columns having a column heading, at least one of the column headings being selected by the user from a plurality of available column headings;

and

at least one row ~~having a row heading~~ and a plurality of cells, said plurality of cells corresponding to said at least two columns, each of said plurality of cells for storing a unique identifier related to its corresponding column heading and row heading and said search term; ~~and~~

searching for unique identifiers from the network of computers related to the search term, ~~said at least one row heading,~~ and one of said at least two column headings, said search unit storing said unique identifiers in the applicable cell; and

activating at least one of said plurality of cells to perform at least one action related to said stored unique identifiers.

70. (Currently amended) The method of claim 69, wherein said ~~activation-step~~ action is selected

from the group comprising obtaining additional information, placing a telephone call, sending a facsimile, and sending a message over the network of computers.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said network of computers includes the Internet.

72. (Canceled)

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, further comprising selecting said at least one row heading from one of a plurality of available row headings.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein said message is an email.

75. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said stored unique identifiers originate from at least two sources.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, further comprising implementing said at least one action with a single selection of the cell.

77. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, further comprising accessing said system by selecting an icon on a computer screen.

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 77, further comprising automatically filling in said plurality of cells as a user searches the Internet.

79. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said unique identifier is a phone number, and activating step comprises placing a telephone call.

80. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69 wherein said unique identifier is a facsimile number, and said activating step comprises sending a facsimile to said facsimile number.

81. (Previously presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said unique identifier is an e-mail address, and said activating step comprises sending an e-mail to said e-mail address.

82. (Currently amended) The method of claim 69, wherein ~~said row heading and said column headings~~ rows and columns are interchangeable.

83. (New) A directory system for permitting a user to access and retrieve information from a network of computers, comprising:

a key phrase field for accepting a search term;

a data table comprising a plurality of cells arranged into at least one row and at least two columns, each of said plurality of cells for storing a unique identifier related to its corresponding column and row and said search term, each of said plurality of cells being user selectable to identify a subsearch criteria; and

a search unit for conducting a search and a subsearch, the search unit conducts the search for unique identifiers related to the search term from the network of computers, the search unit further conducts a subsearch for unique identifiers from the network of computers related to the search term and the subsearch criteria, said search unit storing said each unique identifier in an applicable cell.

84. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein the search unit conducts the subsearch in response to user selection of a cell.

85. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein the search unit conducts the subsearch in response to user selection of an arrow.

86. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein the search unit conducts the subsearch in response to user selection of an activation button.

87. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein each said cell can be activated by the user to perform at least one action related to said stored unique identifiers.

88. (New) The system of claim 87, wherein said action is selected from the group comprising obtaining additional information, placing a telephone call, sending a facsimile, and sending a message over the network of computers.

89. (New) The system of claim 88, wherein said message is an e-mail.

90. (New) The system of claim 87, wherein said at least one action is implemented with a single selection of the cell.
91. (New) The system of claim 87, wherein said unique identifier is a phone number, and said action comprises placing a telephone call.
92. (New) The system of claim 87 wherein said unique identifier is a facsimile number, and said action comprises sending a facsimile to said facsimile number.
93. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein the search unit conducts subsearch based on a user access level.
94. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein the search unit conducts the subsearch on a database maintained by a company associated with the subsearch criteria.
95. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein the search unit conducts the subsearch by querying a restricted database.
96. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein the search unit conducts the search by employing web crawling.
97. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein said network of computers includes the Internet.

98. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein said stored unique identifiers originate from at least two sources.

99. (New) The system of claim 83, wherein said system is accessed by selecting an icon on a computer screen.

100. (New) The system of claim 83, further comprising a cursor and an activity menu having a plurality of activity buttons; whereby each of said activity buttons defines an action related to said unique identifiers within a cell.

101. (New) The system of claim 100, wherein said cursor may be activated to highlight one of said plurality of cells and at least one of said plurality of activity buttons change to reflect said stored unique identifier in said highlighted cell.